

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated July 16, 2001, applicant elects claims 1-12 and 14-19 directed to Figs. 3 and 4, with traverse. Based on the close relationship of the two species, they are not "independent and distinct" as required by 35 USC 121 for restriction to be proper.

Concerning the amendments to the specification, the amendments have now been made on a paragraph by paragraph basis, and it is requested that the amendments now be approved.

We also wish to reference the FAX by which proposed amendments were sent to the Examiner on May 16, 2001, a copy of which is attached hereto.

In the event that the amendments to claims 1, 7 and 14 are deemed appropriate and make the claims allowable, applicant hereby authorizes the entry of these amendments and the cancellation of claim 13.

Alternatively, if the Examiner would prefer, please telephone the undersigned and we will send a formalized amendment making these changes.

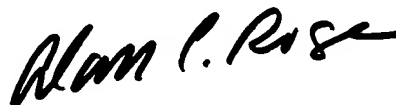
Applicant and his counsel also wish to thank Examiner Y. Tse for the interview which was courteously granted on May 30, 2001. In this interview, it is understood that the Examiner indicated that, with the proposed amendments to the claims, claims 1, 7 and 14 would be patentable over the prior art.

In closing, an early Notice of Allowance is now believed to be appropriate and is solicited.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional filing fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16, or application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17, which may be required now or during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 16-2230. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,



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